

March 20, 2013

Dear Members of the Public Health Committee,

I write in serious OPPOSITION to the passage of **HB 6645, an Act Concerning Compassionate Aid in Dying for Terminally Ill Patients**.

I oppose this bill on multiple grounds. Spiritually, this Bill offends my Christian faith in condoning "suicide". How wretchedly audacious to reject the Creator God, in whom we "*live and move and exist....For we are also his offspring.*" Acts 17:28. How remarkable for St. Paul to quote a Greek poet to the Athenian tribunal responsible for due honor being paid to the gods, and which oversaw the morals of Athenians – as additional testimony in enlightening heathen darkness as to the "*unknown God*". The enlightened Christian has no fear of death, for we await the moment when "*we shall all be changed, in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye*" 1 Cor 15:52. Read the inspired Word of God for yourself – the ultimate standard of morality.

We had nothing to do with the day of our birth, how should we change the day of our death? The most life-altering illness should not allow the creature to defy Creator by condoning suicide.

I know what I am talking about. My 21 yr son, Rob, suffers with ALS – Lou Gehrigs disease. This is terminal, and we accept that God's inscrutable will has allowed this devastating affliction. He has overcome this for two years. No one knows how much longer life will be for him. Certainly his physicians cannot predict this with any degree of accuracy. But nothing is going to keep us from making his life enjoyable and with quality to the finish. This Bill is the coward's way out and does not inspire courage, dignity or hope.

But I have some more concerns.

I observe supporters say this is about choice. Hark, it is not if you die, but when. Ah, that is the choice. One may logically contend that taxes are a choice. Not that one may refuse to pay them, but one should have the choice of when to pay them. Should that not be one of our new human rights? How many other features of life will suddenly be questioned as essentially unfair because we never had a "choice"?

And who gets to proclaim the definition that "terminal illness" is when you have six months to live? Who gave this Committee that right, and how are you qualified to make such a law? Why not twelve months? What happens when physicians misdiagnose the expected length of illness?

How will this Bill affect patients who suffer with depression and other debilitating anxiety afflictions for whom suicide is within reach? Will you discriminate against them and force them to live against their will because the condition is not "terminal"?

I could go on and on with questions that I find quite frankly repulsive. Athenian debauchery and immorality in the birthplace of democracy have found their resonance here in tiny Connecticut.

This Bill is flawed and hypocritical to such an extent as to make a mockery of the rule of law, and I appeal to each Committee Member to OPPOSE this Bill and any other future form it may take.

Sincerely,

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